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TO: Denis Brown
FROM: Paul A. Strassmann
Subject: Depot Level Maintenance

The 1993 Defense Authorization Act (HR 5006) contains recommendations that I would like to be able to respond to in conversations with Congressional staffs, or if the press picks it up.

Enclosed is a "?"-marked passage, on pages 208 and 222 which suggest that we ought to increase the ratio of organic depot level maintenance.

The ITRUS (Information Technology Reuse Service) plan calls for continuous upgrading of computer hardware technologies by means of component maintenance in lieu of buying new technologies. Please draft and coordinate a statement that would show the rationale and potential for increasing DoD use of its own depots to lengthen the useful technology life of microcomputer-based systems.

Would you please prepare the above by July 30?

Many thanks.



ic: Andrews, Cavallini, Erwin, Fischer, Hansen, Kendall, Knecht, Short, Smith, Spector

Finally, the department must begin to track the readiness and training of its forces in CB defense. The services or OSD should include the status of NBC training and readiness in their reporting systems. The department must develop training standards and programs to sustain unit NBC training and readiness. The annual report should describe the level of training and readiness as well as details on measures taken to integrate realistic NBC situations into wargames and battle simulations. It should also provide an accounting of the number of service NBC experts and leaders who have trained in an actual lethal agent environment.

DEPOT MAINTENANCE COMPETITION

For several years the Congress and the Department of Defense have attempted to establish a basic level of maintenance and repair that should always be accomplished by the government and not offered for contract or competition. This basic level—or core—is necessary to maintain the critical skills that support the war fighting requirements of the department.

Over the years, an informal arrangement evolved between the department and the committee, defining core as a basic level of at least 60 percent of depot work to be accomplished by government employees in government facilities, with the remaining 40 percent to be offered for competition. The intent of core was to ensure that critical skills were preserved in each and every major area of depot level maintenance and repair, rather than as an average within or between the services. The current method of averaging depot level workload to achieve the 60 percent core level is not in compliance with committee intent and is not an acceptable method of meeting the requirement. Accordingly, the committee recommends a legislative provision (sec. 342) that would suspend current department practice and clarify the committee's intent.

The guidelines of the informal arrangement regarding core workload have not been followed closely by each of the services, resulting in inequities within the system. The committee is gravely concerned that the lack of strict adherence by each service to the 60 percent core requirement on an individual level for ships, aircraft, ordnance, supply, and land forces, could result in the loss of critical skills within the services' maintenance and repair depots, adversely affecting the ability to surge in critical situations. The committee is particularly disturbed that despite numerous warnings over a number of years, the Army has not achieved the goal of having a minimum of 60 percent of depot level aviation maintenance and repair conducted by government employees. This is totally unacceptable, and the committee directs the Secretary of Defense to take the necessary steps to immediately rectify this situation.

To avoid further confusion regarding the meaning of core, the committee has established a formal definition of the basic level of maintenance and repair that must always be conducted by government personnel at government facilities. The committee has determined that a minimum of 60 percent of depot-level maintenance and repair with respect to each type of material or equipment, for each military service, must be conducted by government employees. The committee views core as a requirement, not a goal. There-

} ELECTRONICS ?